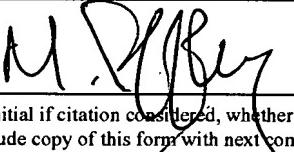


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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
A.	3,707,149	12/26/72	Hao et al.	128	303.14	10/16/1970
B.	4,580,557	4/8/86	Hertzmann	606	12	8/22/1983
C.	4,587,975	5/13/1986	Salo et al.	600	506	7/2/1984
D.	4,709,698	12/1/1987	Johnston et al.	606	41	5/14/1986
E.	4,860,752	8/29/1989	Turner	607	102	2/18/1988
F.	4,955,377	9/11/1990	Lennox et al.	607	105	10/28/1988
G.	5,057,105	10/15/1991	Malone et al.	606	28	8/23/1990
H.	5,057,106	10/15/1991	Kasevich et al.	606	38	7/9/1990
I.	5,083,565	1/28/1992	Parins et al.	600	374	8/3/1990
J.	5,092,339	3/3/1992	Geddes et al.	606	505	7/23/1990
K.	5,098,431	3/24/1992	Rydell	606	48	7/3/1990
L.	5,122,138	6/16/1992	Manwaring	606	46	11/28/1990
M.	5,183,338	2/2/93	Wickersheim et al.	374	131	12/13/91
N.	5,249,585	10/5/1993	Turner et al.	607	99	11/5/1990
O.	5,255,980	10/26/93	Thomas et al.	374	161	5/14/92
P.	5,281,218	1/25/1994	Imran	606	41	6/5/1992
Q.	5,318,563	6/7/1994	Malis et al.	606	38	6/4/1992
R.	5,334,183	8/2/1994	Wuchinich	606	46	4/9/1992
S.	5,334,193	8/2/1994	Nardella	606	41	11/13/1992
T.	5,336,220	8/9/1994	Ryan et al.	604	22	10/9/1992
U.	5,348,554	9/20/1994	Imran et al.	606	41	12/1/1992
V.	5,403,311	4/4/1995	Abele et al.	606	49	3/29/1993
W.	5,417,687	5/23/1995	Nardella et al.	606	32	4/30/1993
X.	5,419,767	5/30/1995	Eggers et al.	604	114	8/24/1993
Y.	5,437,662	8/1/1995	Nardella	606	40	2/17/1994
Z.	5,458,596	10/17/95	Lax et al.	606	31	5/6/94

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
<i>NP</i>	A.	5,458,597	10/17/95	Edwards et al.	606	41	11/8/93
	B.	5,472,443	12/5/95	Cordis et al.	606	48	3/17/94
	C.	5,505,730	4/9/96	Edwards et al.	606	41	6/24/94
	D.	5,507,743	10/15/1991	Krasko et al.	313	639	4/4/1991
	E.	5,542,915	8/6/1996	Edwards et al.	604	22	1/12/1994
	F.	5,562,703	10/8/1996	Desai	606	210	6/14/1994
	G.	5,658,278	8/19/1997	Imran et al.	606	41	1/31/1995
	H.	5,660,567	8/26/97	Nierlich et al.	439	620.21	11/14/95
	I.	5,715,817	2/10/1998	Steven-Wright et al.	600	373	6/7/1995
	J.	5,722,975	3/3/1998	Edwards et al.	606	41	6/7/1995
	K.	5,749,869	5/12/1998	Lindenmeier et al.	606	34	6/1/1995
	L.	5,755,753	5/26/1998	Knowlton	607	98	5/5/1995
	M.	5,769,847	6/23/1998	Panescu et al.	606	42	4/24/1996
	N.	5,785,705	7/28/1998	Baker	606	32	10/24/1995
	O.	5,786,578	7/28/98	Christy et al.	219	720	6/30/97
	P.	5,800,429	9/1/1998	Edwards	606	41	11/19/1996
	Q.	5,810,802	9/22/1998	Panescu et al.	606	31	1/24/1997
	R.	5,873,877	2/23/1999	McGaffigan	606	41	4/11/97
	S.	5,964,786	10/12/99	Ochs et al.	607	5	2/10/98
	T.	6,162,217	12/19/00	Kannenberg et al.	606	34	4/21/99
	U.	6,197,021	3/6/01	Panescu et al.	606	31	9/17/98
	V.	6,280,441	8/28/01	Ryan	606	45	12/15/97
	W.	6,283,961	9/4/01	Underwood et al.	604	41	6/3/99
	X.	6,409,722	6/25/02	Hoey et al.	606	34	7/6/99
	Y.	6,440,129	8/27/02	Simpson	606	42	2/10/00
	Z.	6,890,307	5/10/05	Kokane et al.	600	549	1/9/02
EXAMINER <i>McFly</i>				DATE CONSIDERED <i>5/10/07</i>			
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		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
MP	A.	97/18768	5/29/1997	WO	A61B	17/39	X
	B.	99/20213	4/29/1999	WO	A61F	7/12	X
	C.	00/000098	1/6/2000	WO	A61B	17/36	X
	D.	00/009053	2/24/00	WO	A61F	7/12	X
	E.	02/102255	2/27/2002	WO	A61B	17/20	X
	F.	03/024305	3/27/2003	WO	A61B	-	X
	G.	03/092477	11/13/2003	WO	A61B	-	X
MP	H.	04/071278	8/26/2004	WO	A61B	-	X
MP	I.	07/006000	1/11/2007	WO	A61B	18/14	X

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	DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)	DATE
MP	J. Buchelt, et al. "Excimer Laser Ablation of Fibrocartilage: An In Vitro and In Vivo Study", Lasers in Surgery and Medicine, Vol. 11, pgs. 271-279	1991
MP	K. Costello et al., "Nd: YAG Laser Ablation of the Prostate as a Treatment for Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy", Lasers in Surgery and Medicine, Vol. 12, pages 121-124	1992
MP	L. Rand et al., "Effect of Electrocautery on Fresh Human Articular Cartilage", J. Arthro. Surg., Vol. 1, pgs. 242-246	1985
	M. O'Neill et al., "Percutaneous Plasma Discectomy Stimulates Repair in Injured Porcine Intervertebral Discs", Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery, Dept. of Radiology University of California at San Francisco, CA, 3 pgs	No Date
MP	N. PCT International Search Report for PCT/US99/14685 (Atty docket no. CB-01PC), 1 pg	Mailed Oct. 21, 1999
	O. PCT Notification of International Preliminary Examination Report for PCT/US99/14685 (Atty docket no. CB-01PC), 4 pgs	Mailed Feb. 20, 2001
	P. PCT International Search Report for PCT/US98/22323 (Atty docket no. CB-02PC), 1 pg	Mailed March 3, 1999
	Q. PCT Notification of International Preliminary Examination Report for PCT/US98/22323 (Atty docket no. CB-02PC), 5 pgs	Mailed Nov. 28, 2000
	R. European Search Report for EP 98953859 (Atty docket no. CB-02EP), 2 pgs	July 2, 2001
	S. Supplementary European Search Report for EP 98953859 (Atty docket no. CB-02EP), 3 pgs	Oct. 18, 2001
MP	T. PCT International Search Report for PCT/US99/18289 (Atty docket no. CB-07PC), 1 pg	Mailed Dec. 7, 1999
MP	U. PCT Notification of International Preliminary Examination Report for PCT/US99/18289 (Atty docket no. CB-07PC), 4 pgs	Mailed July 7, 2000

EXAMINER <i>U. Kiley</i>	DATE CONSIDERED <i>5/10/07</i>
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		DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)		DATE
A.		European Search Report for EP 99945039.8 (Atty docket no. CB-07EP), 3 pgs		Oct. 1, 2001
B.		PCT International Search Report for PCT/US02/19261 (Atty docket no. CB-11-1), 1 pg		Mailed Sept. 18, 2002
C.		PCT International Preliminary Examination Report for PCT/US02/19261 (Atty docket no. CB-11-1), 3 pgs		March 25, 2003
D.		PCT International Search Report for PCT/US02/29476 (Atty docket no. CB-12), 1 pg		Mailed May 24, 2004
E.		PCT International Search Report for PCT/US03/13686 (Atty docket no. CB-14), 1 pg		Mailed Nov. 25, 2003
F.		PCT International Search Report for PCT/US04/03614 (Atty docket no. CB-16), 1 pg		Mailed Sep. 14, 2004
G.		PCT Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority for PCT/US04/03614 (Atty docket no. CB-16), 4 pgs		Mailed Sept. 14, 2004
H.		EP Communication, European Examination Report for EP 98953859.0 (Atty docket no. CB-02EP), 3 pgs		June 14, 2004
I.		EP Communication, European Examination Report for EP 99945039.8 (Atty docket no. CB-07EP), 5 pgs		May 10, 2004
EXAMINER <i>M. O'Flynn</i>		DATE CONSIDERED <i>5/10/07</i>		
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